Quick Facts

What are “Export Controls”? 

Export control laws regulate the transfer of items, information, and services from the US to foreign countries, entities, and/or persons (including transfers to foreign persons within the US). There are some exclusions to export control laws that permit unrestricted sharing of information that exists, or is intended to be placed, in the public domain. These exclusions apply to information that is published and is generally accessible to the public.

How do these regulations apply to university activities? 

At UNCW, most educational, research, and administrative activities fall under the “fundamental research” and public domain exclusions of the export control laws. However, these exclusions do not apply when carrying or shipping physical equipment to foreign destinations. They also do not apply to travel/export to sanctioned countries. Finally, they do not apply to transactions with businesses, educational institutions, or individuals listed on any of the many restricted or debarred lists.

Even if a researcher thinks s/he is conducting “fundamental” research (intended to be shared broadly within the scientific community), this exclusion may not be applicable if the researcher accepts restrictions in a contract on how the results can be distributed or the nationalities of those employed on the project.

What is the big deal about traveling with a laptop computer? 

Laptops themselves generally do not require licenses to export to most countries. However, the software installed on the laptops may contain encryption technology that is controlled for exporting to some destinations, or data stored on the laptop may include a controlled technology. For this reason, it is important to make individual determinations to ensure compliance. Usually, a temporary license exception can be applied to travel with a university laptop, provided travel is not to a sanctioned destination. A baggage license exception can typically be applied to travel with a personally-owned laptop.
What is a “deemed export”?  

The export control regulations may apply if someone shares a controlled technology with a foreign national, even if the transaction occurs in the U.S. This is called a “deemed” export. For this reason, it is important to notify UNCW Research Integrity staff if a foreign national will visit or work at the university, particularly if they will have access to technical data or equipment. Deemed exports can occur through verbal or written transmission of controlled information.

Can I travel to a sanctioned and/or embargoed country?  

Broad, country-based sanctions and/or embargoes exist for Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria. Specific activities conducted in these locations can be permissible under certain General Licenses issued by the Office of Foreign Asset Control in the US Department of Treasury. Other sanction programs are in place for numerous other countries and entities. Exporting equipment to these destinations could likely require an export license. Please notify the Research Integrity office as far in advance as possible for any activities involving a sanctioned or embargoed country, as export control licenses can take several months to obtain.

What happens if we do nothing?

Educating our faculty and staff is the best protection against violations. Penalties for violations can be more than six figures and include jail time. These are assessed against the individual, and the university could be penalized as well by being barred from accepting federal funding.

**UNCW Export Control Compliance Contacts:**

Leanne Prete  
Director  
Research Integrity Office  
910-962-7774

Kassandra Brown  
Research Compliance Specialist  
910-962-3056

ExportControls@uncw.edu  
https://uncw.edu/sparc/integrity/ExportControls.html